of the North-East and the Border Roads Organization (BRO). This programme envisages improvement of certain roads and the connectivity of State capitals with at least 2-lane National Highway and District Headquarters with 2-lane National Highway through improved State Roads.

(d) to (f) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and the improvement works are taken up keeping in view *inter-se* priority and overall availability of funds. It is premature to indicate allocation of funds during the year 2005-06 as the budget is yet to be approved by the Parliament.

**Driving Training Institute at Karnataka**

3216. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal to establish a Driving Training Institute and Research Centre at Karnataka;

(b) the action that has been taken on the said proposal; and

(c) by when Government would approved the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) On the basis of the recommendation of the Government of Karnataka, financial assistance of Rs. 269 lakh for setting up of a driver training school at Hagaribommanahalli in Bellary District had been approved by this Ministry in the year 2002-2003. Funds to the extent of Rs. 200 lakhs have been released for this project so far.

**National Highways in Uttar Pradesh**

†3217. SHRI KAMALAKHTAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is **a** fact that Uttar Pradesh despite being largest State of the country is having quite lesser number of National Highways as compared to other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have chalked out/are chalking out any plan

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.